

1 ***In the Claims:***

2 Please add claims 2 – 18, and then cancel claim 1 without Prejudice, as follows. All
3 pending claims, whether or not amended, are presented below for the Examiner's
4 convenience and will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5 1. (Cancelled)

6 2. (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any
7 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

8 booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer
9 hardware box of the computer;

10 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
11 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
12 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
13 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
14 repair; and

15 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
16 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
17 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
18 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
19 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
20 the computer.

21
22 3. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software further
23 comprises:

24 copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot
25 device.

26
27 4. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further
28 comprises:

29 copying any of application, operating-system and repair-process software.

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31 5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further
32 comprises:

1 copying any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output
2 system (BIOS).

3

4 6. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of repairing software further
5 comprises:

6 copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device.

7

8 7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software further
9 comprises:

10 copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other than the
11 first boot device onto the first boot device.

12

13 8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of repairing comprises:
14 copying one of template, backup and archive software from the second boot device
15 onto the first boot device.

16

17 9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
18 device comprises:

19 switching the second boot device, thereby making the second boot device bootable.

20

21 10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of switching comprises:
22 generating the signal indicating a need for repair.

23

24 11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
25 device comprises:

26 logically switching the second boot device.

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28 12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
29 device comprises:

30 physically switching the second boot device.

31

32 13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching
33 comprises:

34 altering identification jumpers of a data storage device to be switched.

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2 14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching
3 comprises:

4 turning on or off the power to a data storage device to be switched.
5

6 15. (New) A computer system comprising:

7 a communication device for communicating over a communications link to a second
8 computer system,

9 a port for communicatively coupling said computer system and said communication
10 device over a bus having a plurality of data lines; and

11 a switch coupled within said data line selected from said plurality of data lines for
12 enabling and disabling said communication device.

13
14 16. (New) The computer system of claim 15 wherein said communication device
15 is a network interface card disposed within a main computer hardware box and said switch is
16 affixed to said network interface card.

17
18 17. (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any
19 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

20 booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer
21 hardware box of the computer;

22 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
23 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
24 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
25 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
26 repair; and

27 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
28 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
29 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
30 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
31 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
32 the computer.

33
34 18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein:

1 the step of repairing software further comprises:

2 (i) copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot
3 device, and the step of copying software further comprises copying any of application,
4 operating-system and repair-process software, wherein such copying may include copying
5 any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output system (BIOS);

6 (ii) copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device, and
7 either or both of copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other
8 than the first boot device onto the first boot device and copying one of template, backup and
9 archive software from the second boot device onto the first boot device;

10 the step of booting from a second boot device comprises switching the second boot
11 device, thereby making the second boot device bootable, and the step of switching comprises
12 generating the signal indicating a need for repair;

13 the signal is generated by a user altering the state of a physical switch different from
14 an on-off switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer
15 hardware box of the computer;

16 the step of automatically repairing software comprises automatically repairing
17 software on the first boot device without further direction from the user including repairing
18 software on the first boot device according to preset preferences; the repairing according to
19 preset preferences includes repairing according to whether to recover data, to run a virus
20 check, to reformat the first boot device, to revert to a backup, to run diagnostics;

21 the step of repairing software further includes resetting parameters in a persistent
22 memory; and then copying software onto the first boot device;

23 wherein before the step of booting from the second boot device, installing software
24 onto the second boot device, the step of installing software onto the second boot device
25 comprises one procedure from the following set of procedures: installing software onto the
26 second boot device, copying installed software onto the second boot device copying
27 installation software onto the second boot device, and writing onto the second boot device a
28 version of an operating environment running as a result of the boot from the first boot device.

PENDING CLAIMS

2. A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer hardware box of the computer;

7 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
8 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
9 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
10 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
11 repair; and

12 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
13 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
14 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
15 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
16 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
17 the computer.

19 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software further
20 comprises:

21 copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot
22 device.

24 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further
25 comprises:

26 copying any of application, operating-system and repair-process software.

28 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further
29 comprises:

30 copying any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output
31 system (BIOS).

33 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of repairing software further
34 comprises:

1 copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device.

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3 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software further
4 comprises:

5 copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other than the
6 first boot device onto the first boot device.

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8 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of repairing comprises:

9 copying one of template, backup and archive software from the second boot device
10 onto the first boot device.

11

12 9. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of booting from a second boot device
13 comprises:

14 switching the second boot device, thereby making the second boot device bootable.

15

16 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of switching comprises:

17 generating the signal indicating a need for repair.

18

19 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot device
20 comprises:

21 logically switching the second boot device.

22

23 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot device
24 comprises:

25 physically switching the second boot device.

26

27 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching comprises:
28 altering identification jumpers of a data storage device to be switched.

29

30 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching comprises:
31 turning on or off the power to a data storage device to be switched.

32

33 15. A computer system comprising:

1 a communication device for communicating over a communications link to a second
2 computer system,

3 a port for communicatively coupling said computer system and said communication
4 device over a bus having a plurality of data lines; and

5 a switch coupled within said data line selected from said plurality of data lines for
6 enabling and disabling said communication device.

7

8 16. The computer system of claim 15 wherein said communication device is a
9 network interface card disposed within a main computer hardware box and said switch is
10 affixed to said network interface card.

11

12 17. A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any time
13 during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

14 booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer
15 hardware box of the computer;

16 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
17 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
18 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
19 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
20 repair; and

21 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
22 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
23 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
24 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
25 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
26 the computer.

27

28 18. The method of claim 17, wherein:

29 the step of repairing software further comprises:

30 (i) copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot
31 device, and the step of copying software further comprises copying any of application,
32 operating-system and repair-process software, wherein such copying may include copying
33 any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output system (BIOS);

(ii) copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device, and either or both of copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot device and copying one of template, backup and archive software from the second boot device onto the first boot device;

the step of booting from a second boot device comprises switching the second boot device, thereby making the second boot device bootable, and the step of switching comprises generating the signal indicating a need for repair;

8 the signal is generated by a user altering the state of a physical switch different from
9 an on-off switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer
10 hardware box of the computer;

11 the step of automatically repairing software comprises automatically repairing
12 software on the first boot device without further direction from the user including repairing
13 software on the first boot device according to preset preferences; the repairing according to
14 preset preferences includes repairing according to whether to recover data, to run a virus
15 check, to reformat the first boot device, to revert to a backup, to run diagnostics;

16 the step of repairing software further includes resetting parameters in a persistent
17 memory; and then copying software onto the first boot device;

18 wherein before the step of booting from the second boot device, installing software
19 onto the second boot device, the step of installing software onto the second boot device
20 comprises one procedure from the following set of procedures: installing software onto the
21 second boot device, copying installed software onto the second boot device, copying
22 installation software onto the second boot device, and writing onto the second boot device a
23 version of an operating environment running as a result of the boot from the first boot device.